

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

In the paragraph beginning on Page 9, line 12, please amend as follows:

Referring again to Figure 3, the area adjacent distal end 16 is in its fully retracted position. Circumferentially-spaced slits 30 partially extend along the length of tube 20 near the distal end and sealingly close when tube 20 is at its maximum length and minimum diameter. Defined between slits 30 are intermediate portions 32. To ensure tube 20 remains in its fully extended position shown in Figure 3 during placement of catheter 10, removable sheath 28, shown [[in this figure and]] in Figure 5, may be sealingly fit around tube 20, forcing the tube to its maximum length and minimum diameter shown.